REFERENCE DATA

WSR Voice/Business, 1:30pm-5:30pm, PDT
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Hertzian Intercept BBS, 5:30pm-1:30pm, PDT
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BBS Setup: 1200-28,800-bps, 8N1, ANSI or TTY.

Index & Table of Contents to WSR always available for free download from BBS or $5 for MS-DOS floppy disk or $5 for a printed hard copy.

WORLD SCANNER REPORT

A Journal of VHF-UHF Radio Technology & Engineering

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New Reader Information

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WELCOME NEW and RETURNING READERS

Welcome to the "WORLD SCANNER REPORT", a potent journal on the technology & engineering of VHF-UHF scanners. There's nothing like it as you will find out. We're dedicated to the utmost in scanning & monitoring of the airwaves with a prime focus on the hardware and technology of the equipment. Other periodicals are great for listing frequencies; telling "how to push buttons" and "what to listen for" kinds of things. The "WSR" is into clipping and snipping wires, resistors, diodes, and things like that. We build our own circuits and stick them in our beloved scanners to create new or improved functions that either the mfgr's forgot or didn't want us to have. Time was when I thought several mods would be the end and there would be nothing else to do. Boy, was I ever WRONG!

Seeds sprouted in 1982 as I fooled around in my PRO-2002 and found a place in the circuit where I could monitor with a voltmeter for an S-meter function! Then I found a diode to clip or add (I forget which) that released the blocked government band 380-410 MHz. The list of my initial hacking adventures goes on, but nothing much came of it for the next four years. My Life was filled with other priorities. Scanner hacking took a back seat until the PRO-2004 plowed onto the scene in late '86 to seize the scanner community by storm! Never for $400 had so much performance and power been put into a scanner!

The PRO-2004 made all other scanners obsolete overnight! I placed a standing order for one upon first hearing word that it was coming. The great eyecatcher was Radio Shack's 1987 catalog headliner, "*Continuous coverage, 760-1300 MHz*". That was in August, 1986, but the PRO-2004 failed to appear on schedule. Then I heard over the grapevine that Tandy had halted sales of the PRO-2004 until the cellular phone bands had been blocked out in the units. Then, around September, my PRO-2004 arrived, packed with a green slip which stated that a production change had deleted 825-845 MHz and 870-890 MHz. Ho ho, now! This meant that a retrofit procedure must have been used to block the cellular bands and it might well be undone! Within the hour, clipping a teeny weeny diode had done it! (D-513)

Then, I found other diodes to clip and/or add which gave other slick functions. Like 100 more channels; 25% speed up; etc. Then I refined & wrote a detailed procedure for the casual hobbyist to add 6,000 programmable channels to the PRO-2004. I proposed a magazine article for this mod, but the Publisher suggested a book; what is now Vol-1 of the SCANNER MODIFICATION HANDBOOK. The rest is legend.

The PRO-2005 and later the PRO-2006 entered the scene (*and now the PRO-2035*) but these are only enhanced clones of the PRO-2004 so my work goes on. Thanks to wide acclaim and acceptance of my first book, I was motivated to develop more mods and info for Vol-2 of the **SCANNER MODIFICATION HANDBOOK** series.

Meanwhile, I received thousands of letters from people who cried out for MORE. As I completed Vol-2, I felt that books weren't always the best way to convey technical information. It takes months to write, edit, print and distribute a book. Some mods in Vol-1 were out dated or obsolete before the first book rolled off the press. There had to be a better way. The "*WORLD SCANNER REPORT*" was born on January 1, 1991.

Newsletters are adept at disseminating timely information and updating that info practically over night. The way technology advances so rapidly makes the "*WORLD SCANNER REPORT*" a much better medium for staying in touch with your hobby radio needs and requirements. You get the latest scanner hacking news and info, sometimes within days or weeks of its development. So there it is for the history and background of "*WORLD SCANNER REPORT*". Now, let's dig into some policy, admin and procedural stuff so that valuable space isn't taken up in the monthly issues. Save this sheet for reference.

SUBSCRIPTION & PUBLICATION DATA

The "*WORLD SCANNER REPORT*" is published monthly ten times per year, with the months of May-June and Nov-Dec generally getting a single issue in that period. Our month off (twice a year) helps ensure that you get the best technical scanner scoop available! It's not vacation because complicated projects require intense concentration and focus. I use May and November to work on hairy projects.

The "WSR" is mailed on or around the first of a month for the month of issue. If you haven't received yours by the 20th, then an inquiry is welcome. We will replace any issue that is lost or damaged in the mails. Please return damaged copies so that we can complain to the PO.

It is preferred that all subscriptions begin in Jan or July and end in May or Nov of each year. This minimizes admin costs and helps us prepare an accurate budget for coming issues. If this method is a problem for you, just let us know; we're not hard to get along with. Otherwise, you'll receive back issues to the most recent semi-annual cutoff point when you subscribe.

BACK ISSUES ALWAYS AVAILABLE

You will want the "WSR" back issues, each of which has detailed technical data & info that will not be repeated. The "*WORLD SCANNER REPORT*" will not go out of date like typical newspaper and magazine articles. A collection of the "WSR" will eventually resemble a Vol-3 of my **SCANNER MODIFICATION HANDBOOK**. Its value will not degrade with time; therefore get the back issues if your budget affords so you can stay current with the emerging science and art of Scanner Hacking. I will stock the back issues for as long as there is demand. A current Index and Table of Contents are always available, free for download from our BBS or $5 on floppy disk or printout.

YOUR MAILING LABEL

Check your mailing label for correct spelling of your name and address. Note the upper right corner of the label where your expiration date is printed. That month is the LAST ISSUE you will receive unless you renew your subscription on or before that time. If you're late in renewing, no problem; we'll make sure you get any missed issues after you renew. Also see your subscription number in the upper left corner. Please mention that number if you write to us. This is the computer age, and computers handle numbers. To us, you are a person, a hobbyist and our valued client. Our computer sees you as a number, but WE treat you as an individual. Ok?

TELEPHONE and CORRESPONDENCE POLICIES

The phone is reserved for business. Please, **no phone calls** for chatting, hobby questions & answers and general lip-flapping. We absolutely do not provide technical and hobby support over the telephone. Phone calls never come when convenient and I can ill afford disruptions to my concentration. My time is rigidly scheduled for survival and existence. I ALWAYS make time to answer electronic mail on our **BBS** so use it. I also electronically communicate via **FidoNet**, **Compuserve** and the **InterNet**. About the best I can do with US Mail communications is let my administrative department handle it as best they can. Our mailbox is flooded with questions on everything from resistor color codes to hacking the ICOM R-9000. The volume of this mail makes it impossible for me to answer very many, if any. See our separate brochure for more details on telephone and correspondence policies. If you have an urgent need for assistance, there are ways I can help you; just NOT by phone or mail.

HACKING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SCANNERS

I wish it were possible to have a list of twenty mods for every scanner ever made, but it isn't. I can't count the inquiries I've had over the last year like, "*Do you have any mods for my Rattlesnake XR-99 scanner?*" No, I don't. Maybe someday, and if so, they'll appear in the "WORLD SCANNER REPORT" or maybe in Vol-3 of my book, when I write it. Specific mods for specific scanners are in Vols 1 & 2 of my SCANNER MODIFICATION HANDBOOKs and in the issues of the "WSR". With time, the list will grow. Some of my mods can be adapted to other scanners, but I can't usually take time off to write up every gory detail of a mod for less popular or outdated scanners. As I develop various mods, I will offer suggestions for applying the principles to other scanners. But since I haven't the time or resources to work on every scanner ever made, there's no way I can do justice to them all. If you ask my help to apply a certain mod to your scanner, you & I both will **first have to have the Service Manual**, and then I have to have the time. Normally, I will try to make the time if doing so will eventually benefit others, too. That's the bottom line for my being here. For the most part, I have to concentrate on scanners which are hackable to begin with. Older scanners and lower budget models are not highly modifiable. They are bare bones and **you can't draw blood out of turnips.**

I will try to make time to offer suggestions on how to do certain things to certain scanners but it is essential that I have a complete legible copy of the Service Manual before I can give personalized guidance. If I don't have the Service Manual, (and I have them only for some of the more popular, current models), then you have to provide me with one. You first have to be able to help yourself. This all begins with us having the Service Manual(s) for your scanner(s).

September, 1986

The PRO-2004 launched a revolution!
It's **still** a great scanner **today!**

PLEASE COMMUNICATE

The "WSR" isn't a one-way media. I need to hear from you, especially about what's new. I'm not always the first to catch the latest on what's happening or when something new comes out. Most publishers don't pay attention to the technology of scanners, so lots of ideas, concepts, products, mods and other exciting things could be new on the tech scene and I may not know about them for a time. You might know bits, pieces or even chunks of stuff about which my ignorance would shine. Help me help others by sharing any "inside" scoop about new things, especially products and mods. A small newsletter like the "***WORLD SCANNER REPORT***" depends on its "reporter network" and you play a strong role in that network.

One of the best ways we can communicate in person, is on my BBS. Just because I don't take telephone calls or answer paper mail doesn't mean I left the planet. To the contrary, I am available more than ever; just more efficiently with some new ways. I do see all material of interest submitted by Readers and I act on most, even though a personal reply is not always possible.

I use the READER MAIL forum in the pages of the "***World Scanner Report***" to share with others what you share with me. It is in the pages of the WSR where we can have some great conversations. Use it!

QUESTIONS OF COST

A couple of readers have questioned the cost of the "WSR". Good. It's more or less costly than other rags but there are hidden costs to the technology on which we focus. You see, our scanner mods and technology can't be found in other rags nor on the shelf at your local radio store. Writing the WSR involves much more than sitting at the keyboard for a few days. Other news-letters require little more of their editors than basic copy-typing. You can't imagine the behind-the- scenes effort required to present a simple modification. It first has to be conceived; planned; developed; built; tested; debugged; perfected and then written. Every step is costly and the freight has to be paid. But think about it; if you do only one mod a year to your scanner you'll probably get your money's worth. No matter; the "WSR" is affordable; it's good, it's rare and it's unique and it will get better without the price unnecessarily going up on you.

WRITERS & COLUMNISTS WANTED

The "***WORLD SCANNER REPORT***" is always on the lookout for news and info to pass along to the scanning community. If you have a special interest, expertise, or experience level from which others could profit, then there may be an opportunity for you to launch your writing career for fun, if not profit. The pay is poor (0); the hours are what **you** set; but the intangible rewards could make your cup runneth over. Free subscriptions and other perks available to those who will commit to regular writing. Subject matter is wide open; not everything has to be a modification! We are conveyors & purveyors of information. No one can do it all; it takes a team and you are invited to participate either full or part time!

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